

REMARKS

The following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 8, 2004. In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to proceed with examination of the application on the merits, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 - 12 and 31- 34 are currently pending in this application, wherein claims 13 - 30 and 35 - 43 have been withdrawn without prejudice or disclaimer from further consideration in this application. Claims 1-3, 6 and 31 - 34 are being amended to correct minor formal errors. Applicants submit no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Restriction Requirement

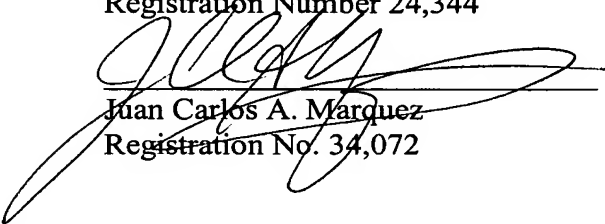
In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, Applicants hereby elect the continued prosecution of the invention identified as Group I, set forth in claims 1 - 12 and 31 - 34, drawn to an apparatus for gene examination, without traverse. Applicants understand that the non-elected Groups II and III as recited in claims 13 - 30 and 35 - 43 is hereby withdrawn from further consideration in this pending application. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file divisional applications on the non-elected inventions.

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the

above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344



Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration No. 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

October 25, 2004